

Application No. 09/597,069
Amendment Dated 12/15/2004
Reply to Office Action of 06/20/2000

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-38 (canceled)

39 (currently amended): A washing device for an underside of a mower cutting deck, the device comprising:

a bracket for attaching the device to the deck, the bracket having a plurality of holes therein;

a means for attaching the bracket with the deck and which extends through one of the holes of the bracket;

a hose fitting inserted in another of the holes of the bracket; and,

a means for transferring liquid, the means having a flexible elongated portion having first end attached to and communicating with the fitting to conduct liquid therethrough and a second end including a mounting plate adjustably connected with the elongated portion, the mounting plate having plurality of holes, one of which is a liquid flow hole accommodating liquid therethrough;

wherein the means for transferring liquid is mated to the fitting by a first coupler;

wherein the elongated portion is mated to the mounting plate by a second coupler;

further comprising a pair of liquid dispersion plates, the pair having connection holes therein enabling attachment of each of the pair to the other and the mounting plate, the pair also having mounting holes enabling attachment to the underside;

wherein the connection holes and the holes of the mounting plate are aligned;

wherein the dispersion plates and the mounting plate are attached to each other by a bolt and a nut;

wherein each of the dispersion plates has a central opening communicating together with the flow hole of the mounting plate to conduct liquid therethrough; and

The device as recited in claim 35 wherein one of the dispersion plates is formed of metal and the other of the dispersion plates is formed of plastic.

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40-42 (canceled)

43 (currently amended): A washing device for an underside of a mower cutting deck, the device comprising:

a bracket for attaching the device to the deck, the bracket having a plurality of holes therein;

a means for attaching the bracket with the deck and which extends through one of the holes of the bracket;

a hose fitting inserted in another of the holes of the bracket; and,

a means for transferring liquid, the means having a flexible elongated portion having first end attached to and communicating with the fitting to conduct liquid therethrough and a second end including a mounting plate adjustably connected with the elongated portion, the mounting plate having plurality of holes, one of which is a liquid flow hole accommodating liquid therethrough;

further comprising a liquid dispersion assembly attached to the mounting plate;

wherein the assembly includes first and second directional members attached to each other and which are attachable to the underside of the cutting deck, each of the members having a central opening communicating with the flow hole of the mounting plate to conduct liquid therethrough.

wherein the first directional member is positioned intermediate the mounting plate and second directional member; and

~~The device as recited in claim 42~~ wherein the second directional member has a channel extending along a longitudinal axis thereof.

44 (original): The device as recited in claim 43 wherein a cavity is formed at a midpoint of the channel.

45 (original): The device as recited in claim 44 wherein the bottom surface of the cavity is substantially even with the bottom surface of the second directional member.

46 (original): The device as recited in claim 45 wherein at least three sides of the channel extend upwardly from the bottom surface in a smooth progression.

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47 (original): The device as recited in claim 46 wherein a first side of the cavity has a V-shape configuration inverted relative to a longitudinal centerline of the second directional member and a second side of the cavity has a semi-ovular configuration.

48 (original): The device as recited in claim 47 wherein third and fourth sides of the cavity route liquid to end portions of the channel.

49 (original): The device as recited in claim 48 wherein the end portions maintain an increasing rate of slope.

50 (original): The device as recited in claim 49 wherein the end portions are separated by a divider integral with the channel so as to cause a split of liquid contacting the end portions.

51 (original): The device as recited in claim 50 wherein the attachment of the first and second directional members provide an orifice at the end portions through which liquid may be emitted.

52-62 (canceled)

63 (currently amended): A washing device for an underside of a mower cutting deck, the device comprising:

a bracket for attaching the device to the deck, the plate having a plurality of holes therein;

a means for attaching the bracket with the deck and which extends through one of the holes of the bracket;

a hose fitting inserted in another of the holes of the bracket;

a means for transferring liquid, the means having an elongated portion having first end attached to and communicating with the fitting to conduct liquid therethrough and a second end including a mounting plate, the mounting plate having a plurality of holes, one of which is a liquid flow hole accommodating liquid therethrough;

a liquid dispersion assembly attached to the mounting plate;

Wherein the assembly includes first and second directional members attached

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to each other and which are attachable to the underside of the cutting deck, each of the members having a central opening communicating with the flow hole of the mounting plate to conduct liquid therethrough;

wherein the first directional member is positioned intermediate the mounting plate and second directional member; and

~~The device as recited in claim 62~~ wherein the second directional member has a channel extending along a longitudinal axis thereof.

64 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 63 wherein a cavity is formed at a midpoint of the channel.

65 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 64 wherein the bottom surface of the cavity is substantially even with the bottom surface of the second directional member.

66 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 65 wherein at least three sides of the channel extend upwardly from the bottom surface in a smooth progression.

67 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 66 wherein a first side of the cavity has a V-shape configuration inverted relative to a longitudinal centerline of the second directional member and a second side of the cavity has a semi-ovular configuration.

68 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 67 wherein third and fourth sides of the cavity route liquid to end portions of the channel.

69 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 68 wherein the end portions maintain an increasing rate of slop.

70 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 69 wherein the end portions are separated by a divider integral with the channel so as to cause a split of liquid contacting the end portions.

71 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 70 wherein the attachment

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of the first and second directional members provide an orifice at the end portions through which liquid may be emitted.

72 (canceled)

73 (currently amended): A washing device for an underside of a mower cutting deck, the device comprising:

a bracket for attaching the device to the deck, the plate having a plurality of holes therein;

a means for attaching the bracket with the deck and which extends through one of the holes of the bracket;

a hose fitting inserted in another of the holes of the bracket;

a means for transferring liquid, the means having an elongated portion having first end attached to and communicating with the fitting to conduct liquid therethrough and a second end including a mounting plate, the mounting plate having a plurality of holes, one of which is a liquid flow hole accommodating liquid therethrough;

a liquid dispersion assembly attached to the mounting plate;

wherein the assembly includes first and second directional members attached to each other and which are attachable to the underside of the cutting deck, each of the members having a central opening communicating with the flow hole of the mounting plate to conduct liquid therethrough;

wherein the attachment of the first and second directional members provide an orifice through which liquid may be emitted; and

~~The device as recited in claim 72~~ wherein the first directional member is formed of metal, the second directional member is formed of plastic and the liquid is water.

74 (previously presented): A mower cutting deck, comprising:

a) at least one cutting chamber having an aperture positioned in the middle of a top surface thereof and a depending surrounding skirt;

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b) a spindle placed through the aperture and mounted to the chamber;

c) a blade mounted on an end of the spindle and within the chamber; and,

d) a liquid dispersion assembly mounted to an underside of the chamber and including first and second plates engaged with each other the second plate having a channel to control the flow of liquid therethrough so as to project such flow above the blade, the channel having a midpoint at which a cavity, having a bottom surface, is formed where liquid enters the channel after having passed through the first plate.

75 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 74 wherein the bottom surface of the cavity is substantially even with a bottom surface of the second directional member.

76 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 75 wherein at least three sides of the channel extend upwardly from the bottom surface in a smooth progression.

77 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 76 wherein a first side of the cavity has a V-shape configuration inverted relative to a longitudinal centerline of a second plate and a second side of the cavity has a semi-ovular configuration.

78 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 77 wherein third and fourth sides of the cavity route liquid to end portions of the channel.

79 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 78 wherein the end portions maintain an increasing rate of slope.

80 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 79 wherein the end portions are separated by a divider integral with the channel so as to separate the flow of liquid contacting the end portions.

81 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 80 wherein the engagement of the first and second plates provides an orifice through which liquid may be emitted.

82 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 81 wherein the liquid exits

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the orifice in two individual fans of liquid.

83 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 82 wherein the fans contact a portion of the chamber opposite that at which they enter.